## Claims

- [c1] An indicator for characterizing human skin condition comprising:

  a flowable carrier, suitable for application to human skin; and

  at least one dye soluble with oil found on human skin, and visually

  changeable when in solution with oil on human skin;

  wherein any visual change in the at least one dye is proportional to the

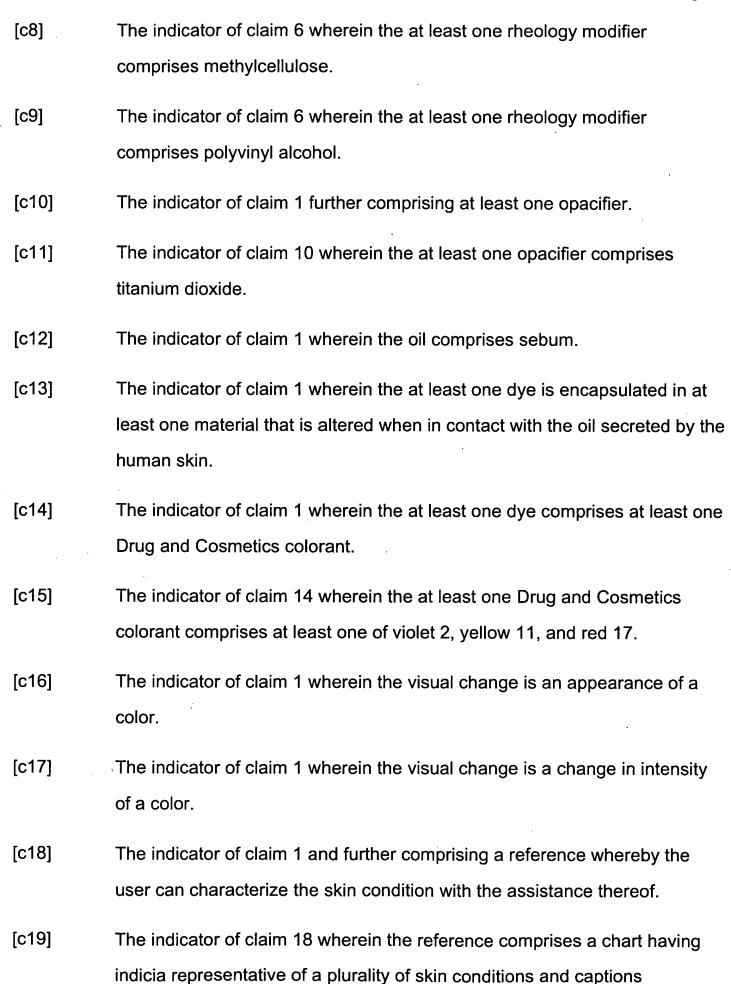
  amount of the oil present in solution;

  whereby when the indicator is applied to an area of human skin, and the at

  least one dye contacts and reacts with the oil in the area, the indicator will

  display a visual indication of the skin condition in the area based on the

  amount of the oil in the area.
- [c2] The indicator of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier comprises water and at least one rheology modifier.
- [c3] The indicator of claim 2 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises a ceramic material.
- [c4] The indicator of claim 3 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises a clay material.
- [c5] The indicator of claim 4 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises bentonite clay.
- [c6] The indicator of claim 2 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises a polymer material.
- [c7] The indicator of claim 6 wherein the at least one rheology modifier comprises a high molecular weight homo- or copolymer of acrylic acid crosslinked with a polyalkenyl polyether.



associated with each of the plurality of skin conditions whereby a user can align the chart in register with a particular area of the activated indicator and compare the indicia on the chart with the particular area of the indicator to determine the skin condition as described by the caption associated therewith.

- [c20] The system of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier is spreadable.
- [c21] The system of claim 20 wherein the flowable carrier is peelable.
- [c22] The system of claim 20 wherein the flowable carrier is a gel.
- [c23] The system of claim 1 wherein the flowable carrier is a powder.
- [c24] A method of employing a flowable indicator for characterizing skin condition comprising the following steps:

applying the flowable indicator to a desired area of skin, wherein the indicator is reactive with at least one substance found on the skin; activating the flowable indicator through a reaction of the indicator with the at least one substance found on the skin after a period of time; and comparing the activated flowable indicator to a reference to characterize skin condition.

- [c25] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of waiting for the flowable indicator to activate.
  - [c26] The method of claim 25 and further comprising a step of determining if the flowable indicator is activated.
  - [c27] The method of claim 26 and further comprising a step of waiting further for the flowable indicator to activate if the user has determined that the flowable indicator is not yet activated.

- [c28] The method of claim 27 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.
- [c29] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the characterized skin condition.
- [c30] The method of claim 24 and further comprising a step of providing a visual reference for comparison of the activated flowable indicator to a standardized reference point to determine skin condition.
- [c31] The method of claim 30 and further comprising a step of determining appropriate cosmetics for use with the determined skin condition.